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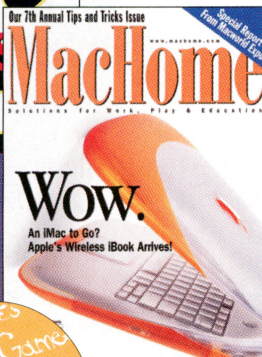
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Storm Before the Calm

I'll confess I was not excited about attending Macworld Expo this past January. In fact, I was dreading it. It had been almost two years since I'd attended the trade show, and I had plenty of bad memories of overzealous public relations people promoting their less-than-interesting product as if it were the second coming of Microsoft Word. I couldn't bear to listen to another product representative wearing a permanent smile prattle on about her company's fantastic new line of colored-coordinated cables.

I boarded my flight on the east coast reluctantly. The trip across the continent brought with it a discomfiting omen. Yes, the chicken meal served on my flight was less than stellar. Actually, I'm not sure it was chicken. It could easily have been pigeon, or perhaps even soggy home insulation. All I could be certain of was that the future was clouded.

In fact, my future was overcast, with scattered showers expected throughout the day. I'm told it rarely rains in San Francisco, but as my flight taxied to the terminal, beads of water began to collect on the plane's windows. By the time I had dropped my luggage off at the hotel and made my way to the convention center, it was pouring. A fine start to the week, really.

My dampened spirits were quickly lifted as I walked into the exposition. There was an incredible energy on the showroom floor. You'd never guess Apple was in a sales slump by judging the enthusiasm of the average showgoer. Moreover, this was one of the best-attended Macworld Expos to date. Excited people

milled about, toting bags full of product brochures and expo freebies, and the convention center dining areas were a sea of PowerBooks and iBooks.

The stars of the show were undoubtedly Mac OS X, iTunes, and the PowerBook G4. The latest revision to Mac OS X includes enhancements suggested by users and looks to be a must-have upgrade; iTunes rolls together a clever MP3 player, encoder, and burner into a free downloadable package; and the new PowerBook G4 with widescreen display is simply stunning.

One of the most exciting aspects of the show was not a newly announced product, but rather the application of an existing technology. The showroom floor was teeming with AirPort networks. You could open up your AirPort-enabled PowerBook or iBook just about anywhere, select an available network, and hop on the Internet. It was simply remarkable... an encouraging example of a world without wires.

And so Macworld Expo proved to be far more compelling than I had dared hope. I spent my time learning about great new products and catching up with old friends. On the fourth day, the weather finally broke, resulting in one of the most perfectly blue skies I've ever seen. I'd like to think of it as a beautiful portent of Apple's future.

Incidentally, the color-coordinated cables I saw at the show were *spectacular*.



chris@machome.com

A stylized blue ink signature of Chris McVeigh.

Chris McVeigh
Editor

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Apple's New Metal Masterpiece

At this year's Macworld Expo San Francisco, CEO Steve Jobs affirmed once again Apple's commitment to stunning design and amazing power. The Titanium PowerBook G4 is a radical redesign from the core to the case, emerging with a sleek form factor that left expo attendees gasping.

This ultra-slim (one inch thick!), ultra-light (5.3 pounds), and ultra-wide screen wonder has the stats and features to compete with — and indeed crush — any other high-end notebook on the market. Even the latest ultra-thin offerings from Sony and Compaq seem like clunkers in comparison with this titanium-encased beauty, which was quickly dubbed the "TiBook" by wags in the press.

While the thin form factor means you lose a few extras compared to earlier models — this new 'Book has only one FireWire port, no sound input, and no removable expansion bay — the addition of the wide screen with 1152 x 768 native resolution and slot-loading DVD-ROM drive should soften the blow. With support for external VGA video, USB devices, a PC-card slot that fits type I and II cards, and five hours of battery length, the PowerBook G4 is simply the finest tool for the digital road warrior. With a 400 or 500 MHz G4 processor under the hood and support for 1GB RAM, there is no limit to the possible applications of this power tool.



With the addition of an AirPort card and perhaps a slim USB printer, you could set yourself free from that desk forever. That is, if you can afford the \$2,599 to \$3,997 (for the ultra-loaded high end model) price tag.

Apple also radically revamped its Power Macintosh G4 line, pushing the top speed to 733 MHz but dropping the dual-processor option (except in the midrange 533 MHz model). These new

G4 towers feature a redesigned motherboard with a 133 MHz bus speed (faster computing), 4x AGP (faster graphics), and Gigabit Ethernet (radically faster networking). Although the high-end model costs a hefty \$3,499 and will most likely be of limited availability, Apple can no longer be accused of dragging its heels in the MHz race.

Perhaps the most exciting addition to the lineup is the inclusion of a DVD-R/CD-RW combo drive in the 733 MHz model. This drive, combined with Apple's new iDVD software, will allow you to create actual DVDs of your iMovie and Final Cut Pro creations up to one hour in length. No longer do you have to dump your edited movies to fuzzy VHS tape for sharing — they remain as crystal-clear as when viewed directly from your DV camera and will play in any set-top DVD player. Currently DVD-R combo drives are quite rare and extremely expensive, but expect them to become an optional feature for many Mac models in the future. Apple, www.apple.com.

Bring Hollywood to Your Mac

● Movie might be great for those of you with a DV iMac and a digital FireWire video camera, but what if you want to

edit all those old VHS or 8 MM tapes collecting dust in that shoebox? Dazzle Multimedia has created the Hollywood DV-Bridge, a low-cost solution for those who want to work with analog video on their computer. Connected to any FireWire-capable Mac (via built-in port) the Hollywood DV-Bridge can convert analog to DV on the fly for editing in iMovie 2 or Final Cut Pro and can output either analog or DV

video signals. You can even mix content from old and new movies together (a best-of compilation would be a snap) and also copy content from an analog camera to a DV one or vice versa — without even hooking the bridge to a computer. Capture content from any source, including a TV, VCR, or any camcorder, then edit it in iMovie for picture-perfect home movies and presentations. The Hollywood DV-Bridge retails for \$299 and ships with a six-foot FireWire cable. Dazzle, www.dazzle.com.



Trackballs Get Web-Savvy

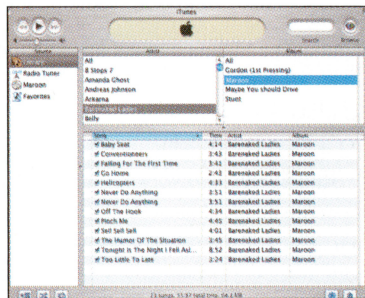
Kensington has once again delivered a hybrid device that combines the best features of both trackballs and scrolling mice into a Web-crunching monster that should be a nifty gaming tool as well. With a large ball on stainless-steel bearings, a center scroll wheel and six programmable buttons (as well as four normal mouse buttons) you can increase your productivity while maximizing your desktop space. The Kensington Expert Mouse Pro retails for \$99 and ships with configurable MouseWorks software. Kensington, www.kensington.com.

Rewind Sets Your Mind at Ease

Winner of several Best of Show awards at this year's Macworld Expo San Francisco, Power On Software's Rewind is the ultimate protection against accidental deletions, upgrade mistakes, and system crashes. Rewind keeps a continuous history of your hard drive on record, allowing you to "rewind" your system after you accidentally throw away a file or experience a system crash. Even more powerful is the ability to un-upgrade your system, in case you experience problems with updating an application or your system software, and to uninstall applications you don't want or need. Rewind can even recover your system if the hard drive has crashed and won't boot on its own; you only have to hold down the "R" key when rebooting. Rewind is \$99 and includes a 30-day money back guarantee. It is available for purchase as an electronic download for \$10 less than the retail price. For more information, visit PowerOn at www.poweronsoftware.com.

iTunes Means Elegant, Free MP3

One of the more earth-shattering introductions at Macworld San Francisco was the release of iTunes, Apple's free utility for creating, playing, and burning MP3s. MP3 is an industry-standard format for converting music to a smaller, cross-platform file that can be traded over the Internet, shared with friends, or loaded onto Walkman-like personal MP3 players. Combining the core of Casady & Greene's powerful SoundJam MP with a gorgeous, sleek interface, iTunes will allow you to rip MP3s from your favorite music CDs, sort and store them on your hard drive, listen to them with crystal-clear playback, and then burn your choices to an audio CD that you can listen to in any CD player. While only Apple's built-in CD-RW drive is currently supported (found in its new G4 towers), future plug-ins should support most common internal and external CD-R drives. You can also tune in to streaming music broadcasts on the Internet (provided you have a fast Internet connection) and watch diverting visual effects while playing your tunes. The software is available as a free download from Apple's Website at www.apple.com/itunes.



Feel the Force (Feedback) with MacAlly

MacAlly's new iShock II is a console-style game controller with an added feature that most other Mac game controllers lack — support for force feedback, also known as rumble pack for some console gaming systems. This USB device offers dual thumb sticks, an eight-way directional button, eight additional buttons for game functions, and a smoky translucent casing. The low (\$49) price tag will also tempt the gamer in you. Although the force feedback works only with games that directly support the feature, this gamepad is sure to give future titles a little more kick. *Macally, www.macally.com.*



FireWire CD-RW Gets Faster, Cheaper

Sony and Yamaha have both introduced new FireWire CD-RW drives that not only push the speed limit for burning your own music CDs, backups, and VCDs but also bring the price tag down from the stratosphere. The Sony Spresia iLink 12 x 8 x 32 x retails for just over \$300 and features thrilling speed and a nifty gray casing that looks swell next to an iMac DV. With this high-speed wonder you can make a backup of 650 MB of your files in just 6 minutes, make a music CD from your MP3 collection in 10, and burn reusable CD-RW discs in less than 12 — a far cry from the 40 to 60 minutes it used to take at 4x speed. The reliability and speed of FireWire means that you will burn far fewer coasters (useless CD-Rs), and you can connect or disconnect the device without rebooting your system. The drive ships with DiscRite, Retrospect LE backup software, and Mixman for creating your own music files.

While Yamaha's 16 x 10 x 40 FireWire model is still quite pricey (\$429.95) and has a PC-beige case, there is no other drive with quite so much speed and power. With the ability to record a 74-minute music CD in less than 5 minutes, this speed demon will burn its way through any removable media creation task. While 16x CD-R media and 10x CD-RW discs are quite rare at the moment, that's the price of being on the cutting edge — by the time they become commonplace you will be ready and waiting. There are no details available on the software bundle included, but most Yamaha drives ship with Toast for CD burning and Retrospect for backups.

New Hardware

The Latest Devices for Your Macintosh



Digital Cameras

PowerShot Pro90 IS
2.6 megapixel, 10X zoom,
optical stabilization (USB)
\$1,300, Canon
www.powershot.com



Camedia C-3040 Zoom
2.6 megapixel, 3X zoom,
16MB (USB)
\$995, Olympus
www.olympus.com

Camedia C-2040 Zoom
2 megapixel, 3X zoom,
8MB (USB)
\$695, Olympus
www.olympus.com

Adapters

BridgeIt
FireWire-to-SCSI adapter
\$179, FWDepot
www.fwdepot.com

iConn
FireWire-to-SCSI adapter
\$99, Initio
www.initio.com

Storage Solutions

LaCie CD-RW
10x40x10 CD recorder
(USB/FireWire)
\$379, LaCie
www.lacie.com

VST CD-RW
Portable CD
recorder (FireWire)
\$430, Smartdisk
www.smartdisk.com

Boa CD-RW
16x10x40 CD
recorder (FireWire)
\$379, EZQuest
www.ezquest.com

FWD CD-RW
16x10x40 CD
recorder (FireWire)
\$469, FireWire Direct
www.firewiredirect.com

LaCie PocketDrive
4x4x24 portable CD
recorder (USB/FireWire)
\$409, LaCie
www.lacie.com

VXA-1
33GB
tape drive
(FireWire)
\$1,195, Ecix
www.excrix.com

Boa DVD-RAM
4.7GB DVD
recorder (FireWire)
\$699, EZQuest
www.ezquest.com

LaCie DVD-RAM
4.7/9.4 GB DVD
recorder (USB/FireWire)
\$699, LaCie
www.lacie.com

Peerless
Hard drive docking
system (USB/FireWire)
Base station, \$250; 5GB,
\$130; 10GB, \$160;
20GB, \$200; Iomega,
www.iomega.com

M2 Quadslim
Palm-sized hard drive
(FireWire) 6GB, \$280;
10GB, \$320; 20GB,
\$410; 30GB, \$620
QPS, www.qps.com



Zip 250
USB powered drive
\$179, Iomega
www.iomega.com

Audio/Video

Xclaim TV
Cable television tuner/
video input device (USB)
\$99, ATI Technologies
www.ati.com

Studio
Analog-to-digital video
converter (FireWire)
\$399, Formac
www.formac.com

ZephIR
Infrared device that trans-
forms your Mac into a uni-
versal remote control (USB)
\$65, studioZee
www.thezephir.com

ShuttlePRO
Programmable multi-
media controller (USB)
\$99, Coutour Design
www.contourdesign.com

DSP-300
Stereo headset with
microphone (USB)
\$110, Plantronics
www.plantronics.com

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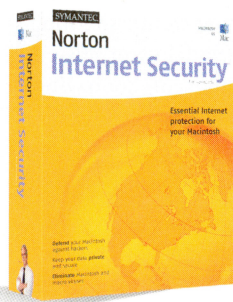


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Bumps on the Info Highway

Solutions to Many Common Internet-Related Problems

By Jason Sims

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and **welcome to Superhighway Airlines flight 116.** Today we'll be cruising to a variety of destinations at a speed of 33,600 bps.

Please remain seated with your seat-belt fastened...Ladies and gentlemen, your attention please: due to an unknown problem, we are going to bring the aircraft around to re-attempt takeoff...May we have your attention again please; takeoff has failed again. We're still not quite sure why, but we're just going to keep trying until it works. Thank you for your patience.

Does this situation sound familiar? If you've had problems getting — or staying — connected to the Internet, it should. The information highway is a vast resource with many uses, but there are a few snags that can cause some turbulence along the way. We'll help you get connected and give you a few troubleshooting tips to smooth your ride.

Tripwire

Perhaps the most common stumbling block people encounter when trying to connect to the Internet is connec-

tion failure — if you're using a dialup modem to get online, it's probably happened to you at some point. By far the most troublesome type of connection is dialup (using a modem to connect to the Internet over a standard telephone line).

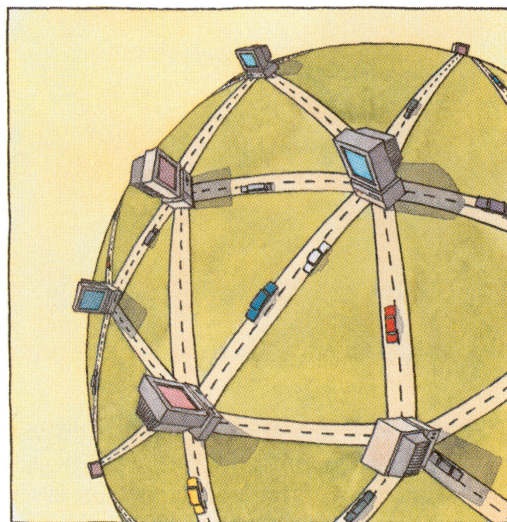
If you're having trouble getting connected to the Internet, or are getting disconnected unexpectedly, the following troubleshooting tips may help you solve the problems you are having.

Before you do anything else, open up your Modem control panel and make sure you've got the right modem type selected. If not, your computer may be using the wrong settings for your modem and/or passing it invalid commands. Selecting the right modem type in this control panel is important. If you've got a Mac with a built-in 56K

modem, select "Apple Internal 56K Modem."

By now, most people who are connecting via dialup are using 56K modems. We're going to sidetrack for a minute here to take a look at a bit of modem history, so stay with us.

The maximum amount of data a modem can transfer over a phone line is 28,800 bits per second; 33.6K and 56K modems transfer more information in the same time by using a special technique called compression, which reduces the amount of data required to store information. Unfortunately, when 56K modems were emerging, two different companies had created their own methods for compressing data. US Robotics' X2 protocol and Rockwell's k56Flex protocol are not compatible with each other, so a modem of one type cannot connect with a modem of the other. If your ISP supported X2 and you had a



k56Flex modem, you could only connect at 33.6 kbps or less, instead of at your modem's full 56K capacity.

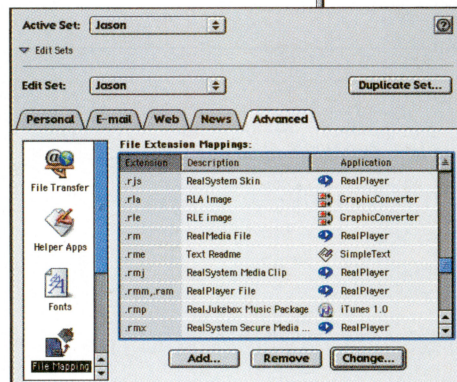
Eventually a new, standard protocol called v.90 was formed by the ITU, incorporating some of the technology of X2 and k56Flex. Most modems could be flash upgraded to support v.90. By

now, all 56K modems ship with v.90 support, but if you bought your 56K modem a few years ago, yours might not yet be upgraded. The v.90 upgrade should be a free update that you can install with a software download from your modem manufacturer. If your modem came with your Mac, you should be able to find the update for your modem in the support section of Apple's Website at www.apple.com. If you bought your modem separately, you'll need to visit your modem manufacturer's Website or call its support department for help. Some modems have received a few updates that fix various compatibility problems, so make sure you've got the latest update. You can also call your Internet service provider (ISP) to make sure its equipment supports v.90 56K connections.

Even with the right modem type selected and the latest modem update installed, you can run into some other snags when getting online. Another factor that affects your connection is the quality of your phone line. The first thing to check is the phone cable that connects your modem to the phone line. If you're having connection problems, try removing any other devices that are attached to the line, such as answering machines and fax machines. Try to avoid using phone line extension cables, or at least keep them to a minimum if your computer isn't near a phone jack. Phone line splitters can also cause problems. There isn't a single answer to this problem — your best bet is to try to isolate a possible problem by moving the computer near a phone jack and connecting it with a brand new phone cable with no other devices on the line. If your connection is clear in this scenario and was otherwise troublesome, chances are you have a bad phone cable or your line is suffering some noise from one of your other devices.

Your telephone company's call waiting service allows another person to get through to you when you're already on the line. Usually this is a nice feature to have, but, when you're online, incoming calls will interrupt your Internet connection and will often cause you to be disconnected. You can disable call waiting for the current call by pressing *70 (star,

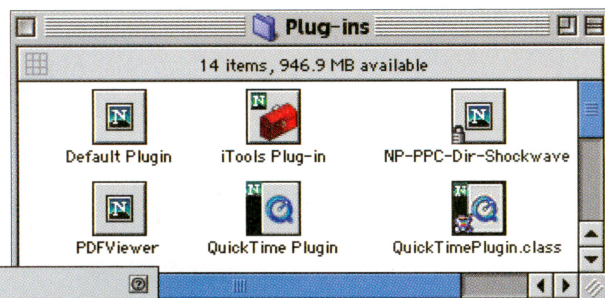
seven, zero) just before you dial the number. Of course, when you're connecting to the Internet, your computer dials the number for



you, so you need to tell it to dial the *70 for you. Open your Remote Access control panel and type *70, (star, seven, zero, comma) before the phone number that you've entered for your ISP. The comma tells your modem to pause for two seconds; it's necessary because you must wait a second after pressing *70 before you start dialing the number. Disabling call waiting will stop incoming calls from interrupting your Internet connection. If you find you are unable to connect after adding *70, to the phone number your computer dials, you probably don't have the call waiting service. Remove the *70, and try connecting again with your previous setting.

This is a complicated subject, and we can't cover everything here. If you've tried everything and you still can't get or stay connected, give your Internet service provider a call and ask for help. Your ISP should be familiar with the types of problems that are common with its equipment and the possible solutions. Modem problems can be tough to troubleshoot, but if you've called your ISP a few times and you're not getting anywhere, you might consider switching to a different provider.

Before we move on, I'd like to make a quick comment about Internet connections other than dialup modems. If you're using a satellite or microwave connection, the upstream portion of your connection



Internet Helpers Plug-ins and utility applications help your browser accommodate different types of files and multimedia content.

still uses a dialup modem, so the above troubleshooting tips apply to you. If you've got a cable modem or DSL line, most of the problems you'll encounter are related to bad settings (in your TCP/IP control panel). Everything else is pretty much out of your hands, so you'll want to give your ISP a call in the unlikely event that you have any trouble with your high-speed connection.

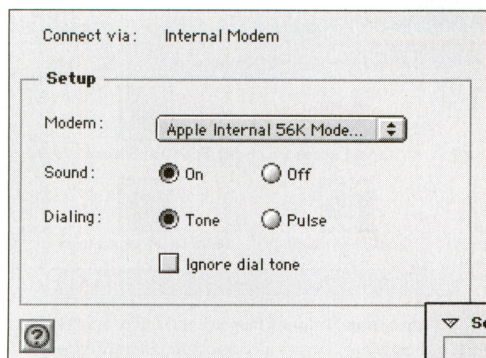
Unplugged

Welcome to the latest fancy-schmancy Website. We've got cool animated menus with sound effects, and you can watch movies and listen to songs right in your Web browser. Unfortunately, none of our stuff seems to work in your browser. Too bad for you!

While you're cruising around the Internet with your favorite Web browser (such as Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator), you may encounter Websites that tell you you're missing some kind of plug-in that is required to view all the goodies they've got. What are these, and where do you get them?

A plug-in is a piece of software that adds functionality to one of your programs. Web browsers allow you to add plug-ins that let Websites offer some cool features. For example, when you're shopping online for music, you can listen to samples of songs before you buy a CD. Or you can watch trailers for the latest movies if you're trying to decide what movie you want to check out tonight. Some Websites also have interactive, animated menus and content, and even games you can play online, all right in your browser.

As a Mac user, you've almost certainly got Apple's QuickTime multimedia soft-



Pot Holes The first thing you should check when experiencing a repeating connection problem is your Remote Access preferences.

were installed on your computer, and unless you've got an ancient browser, you've already got the QuickTime browser plug-in, too. QuickTime lets you watch movies and listen to music, and it supports all of the standard formats for audio and video files.

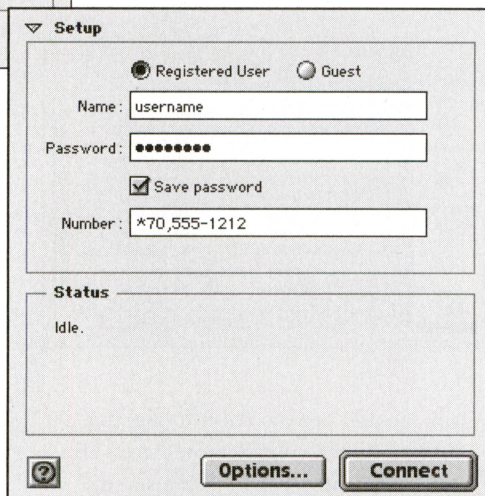
If you've got Mac OS 9, you can use Apple's iTools suite of Internet tools including your own Mac.com e-mail address, a tool that will help you create your own homepage, access to your iDisk online storage, and KidSafe, which lets you restrict your kids' access to certain types of Internet services. To access these services, you need to download the iTools installer from Apple at www.apple.com/itools/. The iTools installer places the iTools Web browser plug-in in your browser plug-ins folder.

Although most audio and video content can be viewed with QuickTime, some sites offer content using RealNetworks' RealAudio and RealVideo formats. To view these, you need to download the RealPlayer program from RealNetworks' site at www.real.com. The player includes a browser plug-in (though few sites actually use it, and it doesn't seem to work very well), and it also configures your browser to open RealAudio and RealVideo files with RealPlayer. Make sure you don't accidentally download the Plus version of the program unless you want to pay the shareware fee for it. Most people will just want RealPlayer Basic, which is free software.

Another popular Website enhancement is Macromedia's Flash technology, which allows browsers to display cool animations. Many Websites offer a Flash

version of their site (and some are even Flash-only), and you'll need the Flash plug-in to get in on the action. You can download it at www.flash.com.

Even more powerful is Macromedia's Shockwave technology, which allows you to access



interactive content such as games you can play in your browser. You can find the Shockwave plug-in (along with a ton of fun stuff to see and do) at Macromedia's Shockwave Website, at www.shockwave.com.

Adobe's PDF format is the best way to share documents on the Internet. Adobe Acrobat allows you to create PDF versions of just about any kind of document, and it allows other people to open and view your documents without needing to have the program you used to create them. All you need to do is download Adobe's Acrobat Reader software (which is already included on most Macs anyway), and you're in business. Even better, if you install the PDFViewer plug-in, you can view PDFs right in your browser without having to open them in Acrobat Reader. Inside your Acrobat Reader folder you'll find a Web Browser Plug-in folder that contains the PDFViewer plug-in; just copy this file into the Plug-ins folder in your Web browser's folder and you're in business.

There are several other plug-ins available on the Internet, with new ones emerging on a regular basis. For the most part, you should try to stick to major vendors' plug-ins and avoid ones

that only seem to be used by one site. You should also note that new plug-ins are not available until you close and reopen your browser, so it is best to quit the browser before installing plug-ins.

Helping Hand

Some files you will find on the Internet cannot be viewed with a plug-in. For these you will need what is typically called a helper application. All modern browsers have a list of file types and what to do with each type of file. These file types are designated by an Internet standard called MIME — multipart Internet mail extensions. As the name suggests, this was originally designed to enhance email programs, but it has become more commonly used by Web browsers.

Microsoft Internet Explorer uses the list built into the Internet control panel included with Mac OS 8.5 and later. If you're using an older version of the Mac OS, Internet Explorer will use Internet Config instead (if you have it installed). You can change the file mappings by opening the Internet control panel and clicking on the File Mappings icon under the Advanced tab. If you don't have an Advanced tab, you need to select User Mode from the Edit menu and change the user mode to Advanced.

Netscape browsers use their own built-in list of file types to decide which program to use to open a document. To change your file mappings in Netscape, select Preferences from the Edit menu and select Applications.

For the most part, you won't need to change anything in these lists. You should just know that they're there in case you find that documents you're downloading are not being opened in the right program.

Smooth Sailing Ahead

The Internet is an ever-changing place; sometimes it's hard to keep up with everything that's going on. Remember that the Internet itself is a great place to get help, so if you get stuck, fire up Sherlock and try searching for information while online.

Thank you for flying Superhighway Airlines. We hope you've had a pleasant flight. 



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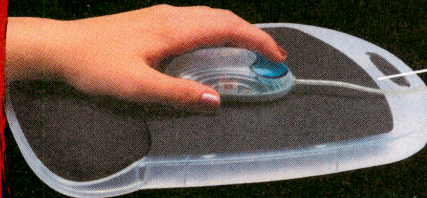


G-Rack

G-Riser



MiniPRO
OPTICAL
Mouse



Mousepad
Designed
for Optical
Mice



UniRiser

Finding Help on the Net

Locate Important and Helpful Information Without Hassle

By Jason Sims

The Internet is a vast resource, offering information on practically every imaginable subject. **If you need help with something**, be it a problem with your computer, a health question, or just something you want to learn, **you can almost always find what you're looking for online.**

Although the information you seek is out there, locating it isn't always easy. Search engines often return dozens of sites that appear to have little — if anything — to do with what you're looking for, and even when you do find a site that appears to be relevant, the information may not be correct. So it can be frustrating to track down answers when you need them. To that end, we've compiled a list of some of the best online sources of information. Think of these resources as your Swiss army knife — you should bookmark these sites and have them with you whenever you journey online.

Sherlock

The first place any Mac user should turn to for information is Apple's Sherlock application, a powerful searching tool that can scour many

different search engines at once to find the information you're looking for.

Sherlock is well documented in Apple's Mac OS Help guide, so we won't go into much detail here, other than to encourage you to use this powerful tool whenever you can. It can find files and folders on your computer, as well as people, Websites, products, and much more on the Internet. Some of these features are only available in Sherlock 2, an enhanced version of the program that

is included with Mac OS 9. If you use the Internet regularly, you should consider upgrading to Mac OS 9 for Sherlock 2, not to mention all the other improvements 9 brings to the table.

If you've got Mac OS 8.5 or newer, Sherlock should be in your Apple menu — if it's not, you might want to reinstall your system software. You don't want to be without it.

VersionTracker

One of the most important ways to keep your Mac healthy is to keep your software up-to-date. Apple's Software Update control panel, introduced in Mac OS 9, does a fine job of keeping your system software updated. For everything else, however, you need VersionTracker (part of the TechTracker Support Network).

VersionTracker's list of new and updated software is revised several

times every day, including weekends. Each item includes a list of changes in the latest version — you'll want to take a look through these, because you don't want to download an update you don't need, since it may introduce new problems while solving others.

Though the site started out tracking software updates for Mac OS only, VersionTracker now tracks updates for other platforms as well, including Mac OS X and the

Palm OS. VersionTracker is also customizable, allowing you to define a list of the software you want to track. It also includes the option to be notified by email when one of these applications or utilities is updated.

VersionTracker has recently launched its Pro level of service, available for a



subscription fee of \$99.95 per year. The Pro service gives you a new Pro tab on the VersionTracker homepage, which tracks only the updates you need. Along with the Pro service comes the Tech Tracker Pro desktop application, a control panel that places a VersionTracker menu in the top-right hand corner of your menu bar, which compiles a list of all the applications on your computer and notifies you when an update is released for any one of them. You can even configure the TechTracker Pro application to check for updates automatically, much like Apple's Software Update control panel. VersionTracker can be found at www.versiontracker.com.

MacFixIt

Not all computer troubles can be solved by software updates. From time to time you may encounter a problem for which an update is not yet available, or

lems that are commonly encountered by Mac users. What makes MacFixIt so great is that it has a large base of readers who actively participate in the troubleshooting process. When new problems arise, MacFixIt acts as a hub for users to collaborate in identifying possible solutions. MacFixIt can be visited at www.macfixit.com.

Creative Mac

If you want to learn to make great graphics, edit movies, or work with audio, take a look at Creative Mac, a Website dedicated to the creative arts on the Macintosh. Creative Mac has tutorials and troubleshooting information for creative applications, with more content appearing weekly. There are also product reviews and daily news. You can find Creative Mac at www.creativemac.com.

Inside Mac Games

For gamers, there's a wealth of information at Inside Mac Games. In addition to daily gaming news, IMG features several active discussion forums, including one that is focused on troubleshooting the inevitable problems that occur with games and gaming peripherals. Hints, strategy guides, and special features focus on getting more out of your games.

IMG also features an ever-growing network of sites that provide news, help, hints, and add-ons for specific games. At the time this article was written, the IMG Network featured sites for *Baldur's Gate*, *Deus Ex*, *Halo*, *Oni*, and *The Sims*. Inside Mac Games is located at www.insidemacgames.com.

MacGameFiles

MacGameFiles (a sister site to Inside Mac Games) tracks software updates specifically for games. Games are perhaps the most common type of application to receive updates, given that they are high-performance applications that push your computer's capabilities to the limits. Improvements based on feedback from gamers are also frequently included in these updates.

In addition to updates, MacGameFiles provides a comprehensive archive of all gaming-related files, including add-ons

for games such as additional maps, characters, and game modifications, as well as movie trailers for upcoming titles and game utilities. MacGameFiles can be found at www.macgamefiles.com.

Whatis.com

Technology is progressing at a dizzying pace, and it can be a full-time job just to keep up with it. For some people, looking at a feature list for a new computer can seem like trying to read a foreign



language. What's the difference between an IDE and a SCSI hard drive? What does DSL stand for? What the heck is dot pitch and why does it make a monitor look better or worse? Whatis.com can answer these and many more of the questions you might have about computer technology.

Whatis.com provides helpful explanations of technology terms. It features a powerful search engine and links to related Websites that have additional information on each subject. It's a great place to begin research. Fittingly, you can find Whatis.com at www.whatis.com.

Health.com

If you want to get in shape, establish a healthy lifestyle, or figure out whether you've got a cold or the flu, check out Health.com. There you can find answers to common health questions and tips for treating a wide variety of ailments. Health.com can help you establish a good diet, plan a workout routine, and prevent problems. You can also take part in online discussions using the forum or send in questions for the experts. Health.com, of course, is located at www.health.com.



— more commonly — is related to a problem that is specific to your machine, which other users do not experience with the same software. When you get stuck with software woes, the place to turn is MacFixIt, the number one Macintosh troubleshooting Website on the Internet. Maintained by Ted Landau, longtime Mac user and author of the excellent troubleshooting book *Sad Macs, Bombs, and Other Disasters*, MacFixIt has been around the longest, and it's still the best.

MacFixIt is also part of the recently formed TechTracker Support Network. It offers a wealth of troubleshooting resources, including reports and discussion forums centered on specific prob-

Email Migration

How to Approach the Daunting Task of Upgrading Your Email Application

By Michael Eilers

Of all the different types of software that might reside on an Internet user's hard drive, **none is more cherished than the email application.** Stuffed full of years of personal correspondence, and as familiar and comfortable as an old sofa, these programs are the kind users get attached to. In fact they often cling to them stubbornly, long after they have become "obsolete" or abandoned by others.

For a short time I did tech support for an ISP, and I met users who put off or refused to upgrade their operating systems, their type of Internet connection, and even their computer hardware itself, out of fear of breaking compatibility with their favorite email application. The task of moving all their carefully sorted and archived email and address books just seemed too daunting to even imagine adopting another email program.

However, the time comes when you can no longer rely on an outdated piece of software. With Mac OS 9.1 now available and Mac OS X due quite soon, it has become obvious that those of you using Claris EMailer and Eudora Light are going to have to bite the bullet and move to a more modern email program. Thankfully, the more modern the email program

you choose, the easier this transition turns out to be. There are a few pitfalls you need to be aware of, however, and strategies you can pursue to make this transition easier.

Not only will this article cover methods for transitioning from EMailer and Eudora Light/5.0 to more recent programs, but it will also provide an overview of the choices available to power users.

Abandonware

Claris EMailer was one of the friendliest, most Mac-like and, yes, lovable email programs available. With a uniform Mac interface and lots of auto-

mated help, this little app has found a place on many a user's hard drive — sadly, not enough of them to continue the project past 1998. The last known version of EMailer is 2.0v3, published January 22, 1998.

"So what?" you say. "It still works, darn it! And besides, I forgot my passwords long ago, and all my personal email for the last five years is in there!"

It is true, EMailer may still work for now, but there is no guarantee it will work in the future — and if the future is a place you want to be, it may be time to move on. Frankly, as comfortable as EMailer might be, the more recent email programs have indeed topped it in features, speed and stability. For example, EMailer cannot handle mail in MIME format (often used to attach documents or send formatted text) or with HTML,

types of messages that are increasingly common.

Eudora Light was also abandoned about the same time in favor of a version that wasn't quite as free — the Eudora that replaced it allowed you to continue using it without pay, but with advertising banners added to the interface. To



remove the banners you have to purchase the full version of the software; however, many purists stuck with the Light version, last updated in 1997. You can't even find it for download any more, a dangerous situation for anyone who doesn't have a reliable backup of the program.

In any case, if you have either one of these programs, or use older versions of Netscape (3.0, 4.0, etc) for email, it may be time to move on. How painful this is

for you will depend on just how customized your email experience was in EMailer or Eudora.

Getting Ready to Move

There are some steps you should take before you transition to a more recent email program. First of all, make sure you have a backup of the mailboxes for your email program. EMailer hides these in the Mail folder inside the EMailer Files folder. Netscape keeps these files in the Mail folder inside your folder in the Netscape Users folder found in the Preferences folder of your System Folder — whew!

Once you have copied these files (preferably to another storage location, such as a second hard drive, a Zip disk, or a CD-R/RW) then you can move on to step two; compact your mailboxes. Not only will this make the translation process from old email apps to new ones faster, it will also make the actual importing process take up less RAM (and thus it will be less likely to crash) when you do so.

To do this with Claris EMailer, hold down the Option key as you launch the program by double-clicking the icon. Choose Advanced Rebuild and let it grind away for a while. Netscape has a different method for compacting your mailboxes; when you have a Mail window open, click on a mailbox and choose “Compact This Folder” from the File menu. Do that for each one that contains mail.

Finally, the third step to take is to copy down all of your account information: your login name, email address, POP and SMTP servers, etc. Don't forget to write down your password, although none of these programs will allow you to see this password once it is typed in — hopefully you have this stored in another location, or you can call your ISP to find out what it is.

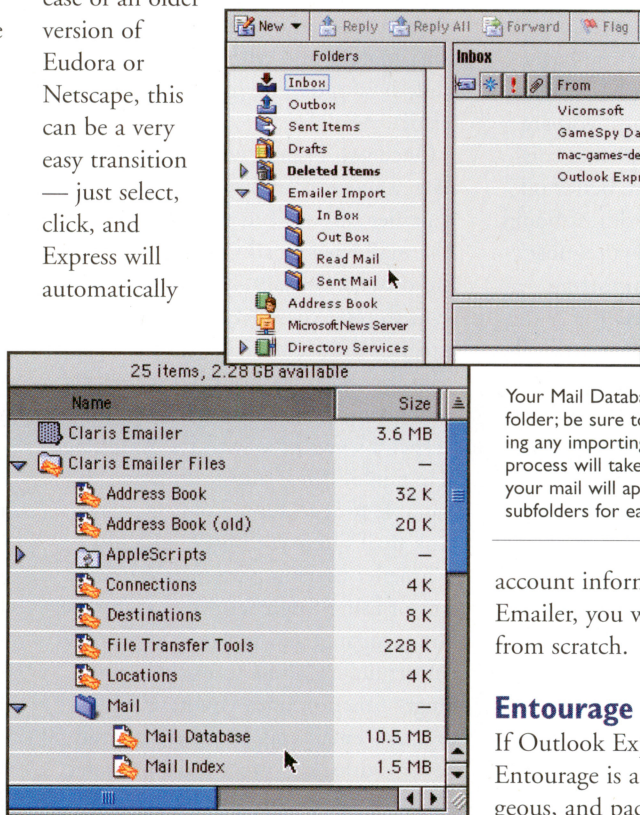
Outlook Express 5.0.2

This is the latest version of Microsoft's free email program, and it is the finest yet. Unless you have a deep-seated, rabid hatred of all things from Redmond, this program is worth a look — and the price cannot be beat. Featuring smooth integration with Mac

OS 9, a clean interface and great speed, this is an excellent next step for those of you who want to move beyond your old email applications.

When you first download this program and install it, you will be presented with the option of importing material from a previous email application. In the case of an older

version of Eudora or Netscape, this can be a very easy transition — just select, click, and Express will automatically



date will be wiped out when you quit! To solve this, go to the Preferences dialog (found in the Setup menu), and uncheck all the options under Files and Folders. This will prevent the program from deleting any moved mail when you quit the program.

Once the import is complete — and again, expect it to take hours if you have more than 10 MB of email archived away — you should have a new folder in the Outlook Express Folders list which says “Emailer (or Eudora, or Netscape) Import.” Make sure you double-check your

Your Mail Database can be found inside the Mail folder; be sure to make a backup before attempting any importing. The larger it is, the longer the process will take. Once importing is complete, your mail will appear in a separate folder with subfolders for each mailbox.

account information; in the case of EMailer, you will have to re-enter it all from scratch.

Entourage

If Outlook Express is a VW Beetle, then Entourage is a Lexus SUV. Sleek, gorgeous, and packed with features, this email program is a stunner — as well it should be, as it is the most expensive email program in history. To get it you have to upgrade (\$245) or buy (\$450) Microsoft Office 2001. This email program and personal information manager is strong enough to stand alone; it's odd that it isn't sold separately.

In any case, Entourage is OE turned up to eleven. Although importing your old email is still a painful, hours-long process, you get a lot more for your wait — Emailer users won't lose their custom folders and inboxes this time, although you will still lose your account information and email rules.

There are two possible pitfalls to watch out for. Entourage has a PIM (personal information manager) built-in and allows you to import data from any other program (or Palm device) to the address book. However, there is no dis-

search your drive and import your messages. Don't panic if this importing of old data takes several hours; for some reason this is a laborious process, and the larger your email archive, the longer it will take.

With Claris EMailer, the transition is not quite so effortless. You will lose your rules used to sort and label mail, your account information, and any custom email folders you have created; only your In Box, Out Box, Read Mail, and Sent Mail are imported. My solution to this was to dump all my custom mail folders into the Read Mail directory, but you have to be very careful — if you have EMailer set to delete messages from that folder that are older than a certain date, all your mail that you just moved that is indeed older than that

Moving from outdated email programs to the new, powerful tools available can be very time consuming, but it is well worth the effort.

inction made between these addresses and imported email addresses from your previous mail application. If you have kept contact information in both your PIM and your email program, you are likely to get a bunch of duplicate contacts in the final lists. You're better off going through all of your address books first, finding the one that is the most complete, and then only importing addresses from that resource.

Another technique to prevent duplicate addresses is to import your data from your PIM, then open the Address Book and hit Select All (command-A). Assign all of the imported mail a custom category by clicking and holding under the Categories column and choosing a category from the menu that pops up. Now, import your email. You will be able to spot duplicate addresses and names easily if you sort the list alphabetically. Just choose those addresses that are out-of-date and eliminate them.

The second pitfall to watch for is running out of memory during the importing process, which happened to me twice. To solve this, click on the Entourage icon in the Finder and choose Get Info/Memory from the File menu. Increase the RAM partition by at least 2000k and by even more if you are importing a huge (15 MB or more) mail database. It is also

wise to have no other applications open while you are importing email, and don't fool around with the machine while it is updating; just let it work its magic overnight.

Once you import your mail, it is listed in a separate folder (such as "Emailer Import") in the folder list. The mail has lost all Category settings and other such flags, so you might want to reset these labels before you integrate your old mail with the new.

As for recreating your old rules, this is an art in itself, which will require you to spend some time with the Entourage help guide. If it is any consolation, I was able to recreate my old rules and junk mail filters with little difficulty.

Emailer users in particular were big fans of using AppleScripts to automate filing, sorting, and replying to email. Unfortunately, these scripts will no longer function once you have moved to a new email app, but there is good news; Outlook Express and Entourage are just as scriptable, and many tools have been created that will most likely

PowerMail

Another email program you might consider is PowerMail 3.0.6 by CTM Development (www.ctmdev.com). This fast, lean, and configurable program emphasizes speed and efficiency of searching, as well as a Mac-faithful interface. PowerMail also features excellent migration abilities for moving from Emailer, but it takes the longest by far (almost four hours vs. the two that Outlook and Entourage took, in my test), and you lose your signature files, unlike either Microsoft product.

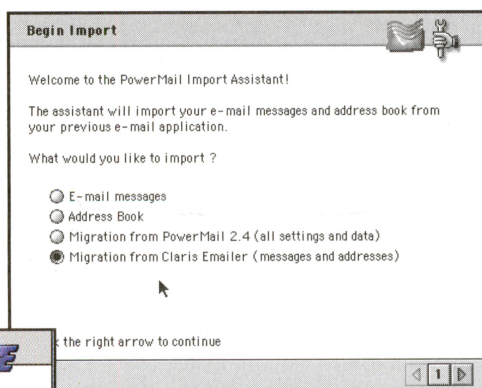
In general, all the same caveats apply: increase the memory size of your PowerMail application by 2000–3000k, compact your mail databases first, and be patient — very patient. Once PowerMail has finished thrashing its way through your Emailer or Eudora mail, you can easily sort and navigate your older data with the built-in search tools.

Moving from Eudora is a bit more painful — you have to import your email and address books separately, and it will take some time. Again, you will lose your labels, rules, and account information. Unfortunately, there is no simple way to regain this data besides hand entry.

Conclusion

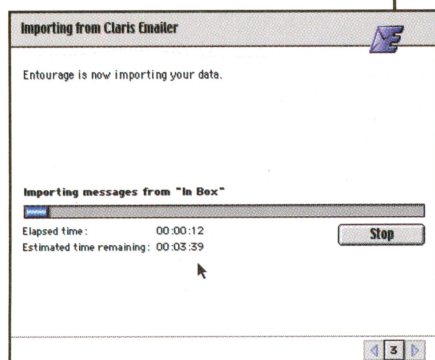
Moving from Emailer and other outdated email programs to the new, powerful tools available can be time consuming, but it is well worth the effort. For all we know the solidly coded Emailer may continue to work well into the future, but it is certain that this program will never be Carbonized for Mac OS X. There will come a day, if you move to that operating system, when you will want all of your applications to be native in Mac OS X to get the best performance possible.

Unfortunately, the current version of Apple's Mail application, included as a free bonus with Mac OS X, does not support importing email of any kind; perhaps a future version will allow you to do so. In any case, the tips and techniques discussed here will most likely apply in that situation, allowing you to bring your old email — regardless of its age — to the 21st century in style. 



Most new email programs include a provision for importing messages from your old program.

duplicate your favorites from Emailer. An excellent resource for Outlook and Entourage scripts is AppleScript Central (www.applescriptcentral.com), which has an extensive archive.



The Art of Bookmarks

Managing Your Many Internet Favorites

By Michael Eilers

As any veteran surfer of the Web knows (as do those dabblers out there), keeping proper track of Internet sites that you visit and wish to return to **can actually be quite a hassle.**

All modern Web browsers provide a method for making and keeping bookmarks or favorites that enable you to return instantly to certain Websites; but if you just bookmark any site you like and surf on, you will soon end up with a list that scrolls way off the bottom of your screen.

Making Shortcuts

There is no contest between Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator in comparison of bookmarking tools and options. IE has many places to stick these useful navigation tools, known as Favorites. And IE 5 is drag-and-drop aware, which means you can drag a favorite's proxy (the small gray @ symbol that represents the URL being dragged) to various locations inside the application and your desktop.

Places you can drag URLs include the Page Holder (a special window that holds one page for you — for instance, the results of a Yahoo search), the Scrapbook (this temporary place to put Web pages saves a snapshot of their

state), and the Favorites drawer. Or drag them from any of these locations to any other location, and to the desktop as well. Even drag them into any text application (email or word processor), and they'll appear as text.

Netscape Communicator is considerably less drag-aware; it lets you drag URLs only to your desktop or into the Bookmark window. Also, Netscape-made desktop shortcuts will only launch Netscape, whereas IE-created shortcuts are true Mac OS 9 files that launch whatever you have selected as your Default Browser.

Mac OS 9 Integration

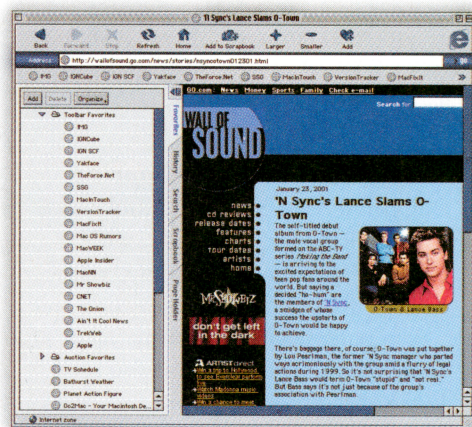
Once a URL is on your desktop, it becomes a powerful shortcut to your favorite Web page. If your browser hasn't been launched yet, double-clicking one of these shortcuts will automatically take you to the page. Internet Explorer also allows you to open multiple shortcuts at once.

Put the page in your Apple Menu

folder (in your System folder) and you have instant access to that Web page from any application. If you have more than one, you can make a folder inside your Apple Menu folder and have a hierarchical menu of your favorite URLs. Or if you like the one-click approach, put all your shortcuts in a Finder window, go to the View menu and choose As Buttons. Presto, one-click access to the Web!

Organizing On-the-Fly

One of the simplest and easiest tricks you can use for any browser is a no-brainer, provided you have some spare room on your screen — leave the Favorites (or Bookmarks, when using Netscape) window open all the time. Just make it into a long thin window on the right side of your screen. Whenever you come to a page you like, drag the



URL proxy straight into the correct place in the list. Use the New Folder command under Organize Favorites on the Favorites menu (or the New Folder command under the File menu for Netscape) to group similar items.

There are dozens of free utilities designed to organize your bookmarks, too. Try searching VersionTracker.com or Download.com for these tools. You can even find premade bookmark compilations to help you avoid organizing altogether! 

Sharing Files Across the Net

Setting Up a Folder to Share with Your Family and Friends Over the Internet

By Chris McVeigh

Mac OS 9 includes the ability to share files over the Internet. Since it's a somewhat clumsy process, **we've created step-by-step instructions to help you share your files** with friends across town and across the world.

Step 1: Start File Sharing

Open the File Sharing control panel and click on the Start/Stop tab. Under the Network Identity box are fields for owner name, password, and computer name. Your owner name may already be in place if you used the Mac OS 9 Setup Assistant, but you can change it if you like. You must also specify a password. (This password is also used for Mac OS 9 Keychain Access and Multiple Users; it, too, may already be there if you've toyed with these features.) Finally, enter a name for the computer. It can be straightforward, such as "Chris' Computer," or perhaps more whimsical, such as "Funky Chicken." Skip down to the next section and click the Start button to initiate File Sharing. Starting up sharing for the first time can take a little while, so please be patient.

In the meantime, use the Remote Access control strip module to connect to the Internet if you do not have a DSL or Cable modem connection. Return to the File Sharing control panel, and check the option to "Enable File Sharing clients to connect over TCP/IP." This tells the Mac OS to allow your friends to connect to your computer over the Internet. Your computer's IP Address will be listed at the bottom of the Network Identity section.

Step 2: Setting Up User Accounts

Click on the Users & Groups tab at the top of the File Sharing control panel. To the right are several buttons. Click the button titled New

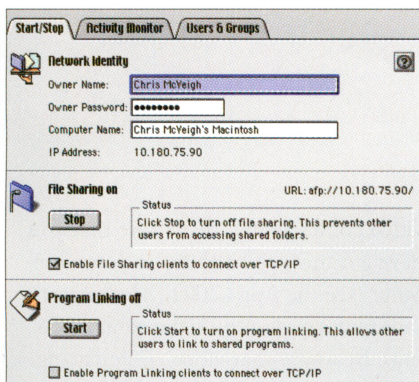
User. A window will appear with fields for name and password. Enter the name of your friend, and assign him a password of your choice. It's a good idea to write down the user name and password so you don't forget it. Once you have passed along the account information to your friend, she can change her password at any time. Close the window and return to Users & Groups. Add additional users by following the same procedure. Once you've finished adding users, group them together. Click on the New Group button at the right. At the very top of the window that appears will be a field allowing you to specify the group name. It's a good idea to enter a descriptive name, such as "Work Contacts," so that you can easily recall the group



members. To add users to the group, simply drag the user names from the Users & Groups window and drop them in the new group window.

Step 3: Specifying a Shared Folder

Go to the Finder, click once on the desktop background, and select New Folder from the file menu to add a folder to the desktop. Name the folder something descriptive, such as "Shared



Master Control The File Sharing control panel allows you to enable sharing over the Internet with a simple click.

Items.” Click once on the folder to highlight it, and select Get Info from the File menu. Once the window appears, select Sharing from the pop-up menu near the top. Check off “Share this item and its contents” to allow access to the folder. In the User/Group pop-up

menu, select the name of the group you just created. To the right of this menu, there is another pop-up menu that lets you specify the type of access you want to allow to the folder: Read & Write, Read Only (so that your friends can only take files from your computer), and Write Only (so that your friends can only send files to your computer). Once you select the access privileges, close the window.

Step 4: Getting your Friends Connected

Contact your friends by phone, email, or online chat and pass along their user names, passwords, and your computer's IP address (visible in the File Sharing control panel). Tell them to select the Network Browser from the Apple menu. Once the browser is open, they must select “Connect to Server...” from the pointing hand pop-up menu and enter your computer's IP address. They'll be presented with a login screen where they can enter their user names and passwords. In a few moments, your shared folder will appear on their desktops, and they'll have access to any items you place in it.

Final Notes

Internet File Sharing can be somewhat slow over a standard 56K modem connection. If someone is grabbing a file from your computer, it will affect the speed at which you can browse the Web and check email. It's also important to remember that unless you have a fixed IP address (usually assigned to you if you have a DSL or cable modem connection), you'll have to inform your friends of the new IP address each time you reconnect to the Internet. 

Your Internet service provider may have set up a firewall to provide security for its users. Unfortunately, this can ground your plans for Internet File Sharing. My service provider has assigned an internal IP address that only people within my DSL network can access. No one outside the network (i.e., most of the world) can access my computer, even if I grant them permission. If you're in a similar quandry, talk to your ISP about getting a fixed external address.

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Internet Telephony

Learn How to Speak with Friends Near and Far through Your Macintosh

By Rafi Guroian

The Internet has been experiencing exponential growth during the past few years; **the web has become a major commerce center and news medium** and Internet play is now a prerequisite among modern computer games. Communication with friends has even exploded into what four years ago was only a pipe dream — Internet telephony.

A small investment is all that the average computer user needs to start talking to friends across the world in something other than a chat room or via email.

Apple has been a pioneer and early-adopter of a number of technologies that ultimately gained industry-wide acceptance. FireWire has become a standard in superior external peripherals such as hard drives and scanners, Voice Recognition is now starting to hit the industry full force, and USB is now the accepted mouse, keyboard, and joystick interface. Video and audio digitization has been no exception. When Apple introduced the Centris AV and Quadra AV line of Macs, it marked the beginning of consumer-targeted systems that could take video and audio and allow the computer user to manipulate the medium digitally on the screen. Since then, Apple and a number of other companies have worked hard at bring-

ing video and audio even closer to computer technology.

Getting Started

Internet-based telephony software represents a cheap (and in many cases, free) technology that household computer users are embracing across the world. By the time you put this magazine down, you'll be able to head out to your favorite Mac retailer, pick up the hardware you need, and download the appropriate software. By the end of the day, you'll be online chatting with friends — for free.

We should mention that most telephony applications also provide video support in addition to the standard audio conferencing. If you plan on

video conferencing, make sure that you have a camera to hook up to your computer (see the April 2001 *MacHome* for more information on videoconferencing). Be aware that video conferencing works best on high bandwidth Internet connections, such as a cable or DSL modem in your home or an office or school broadband Ethernet network. If you're on a modem connection (the internal modem inside of your computer, for example), skip video conferencing, and just stick to audio.

The Hardware

Owners of older Macintoshes might have microphones that came with the computer (PowerBooks and iMacs come with built-in microphones instead). If your Mac didn't come with a microphone of any kind — or if you want a higher quality sound than your Apple mic can produce — look for a microphone suitable for voice input.

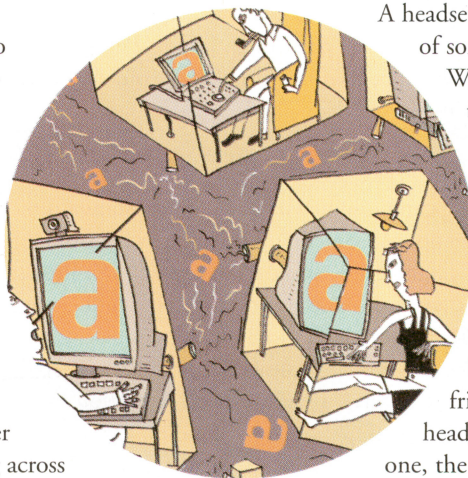
A headset microphone of some sort is ideal.

When you're chatting with a friend on the Internet, one of the most jarring things is to hear yourself talking on the other end because your friend isn't using a headset. Without

one, the microphone on the computer tends to pick up

the sound that the speakers produce. The result is an echo that can get terribly annoying. There are a variety of headsets to choose from; which one is best for you depends on what type of Mac you're using and how much money you're willing to spend.

If you have an iMac, a PowerBook G3, or a desktop tower, purchase a headset specifically designed for Macs (Mac



microphone jacks are slightly different than PC-standard microphone jacks). Andrea Electronics's (www.andreaelectronics.com) NC-71 headset is a standard microphone headset designed specifically for the Macintosh that provides a high level of audio quality for a reasonable street price of around \$35.

For a cheaper PC headset, invest in a PC-to-Mac microphone converter such as Griffin Technologies' (www.griffintech.com) \$20 NE Mic Audio Adapter. The adapter boosts the signal of the headset and also works around any incompatibilities your headset might otherwise have with Apple's nonstandard microphone input jack.

iBooks, PowerBook G4s, and G4 Cubes don't have microphone inputs. For these, you'll need to use a pricier USB headset, such as Andrea's NC-7100 (\$70) or VXI's USB Parrot Jamaica (\$60). These headsets plug directly into the USB port on your Mac and provide industry-standard audio quality.

Alternatively, if you want to add more audio capabilities through USB, take a look at Macally's iVoice. iVoice is a USB device that has a built-in microphone as well as standard microphone jack that can accommodate any headset. The \$30 device allows you to circumvent the pricey USB headset route and opt for a cheaper, more conventional alternative.

The Software

Once you've chosen your audio hardware, you must pick out the software that you want to use to talk to your friends. Keep in mind that your friends need to be using the same software that you're using for you to talk to one other. If you're not planning on integrating video and you want to spend as little money as possible, then AOL's Instant Messenger (www.aol.com/aim) program is a good choice. AOL Instant Messenger (or AIM for short) is the Internet chatting program of choice for college students these days, and if you know someone with a computer who spends a lot of time on the Internet, they probably use AIM. The latest version of AIM (4.3.1232 as of this writing) supports audio chatting from Mac to Mac, Mac to PC, and PC to PC. Make sure that your computer has a

microphone or headset connected, and simply click on the Talk icon when chatting with a buddy to strike up an oral conversation.

Among other freeware, iVisit (www.िवisit.com) continues to be a popular program. The software allows users to conduct multiperson conversations, and it also supports a sturdy, albeit choppy, video conferencing engine. Simply download the software, run the installation program, and you'll be online chatting in no time. iVisit operates as an online community as well as a one-on-one audio and video chatting program. If you plan on talking to a group of people at one time, you have to navigate through a series of chat rooms (which is similar to the chat room organization found on services like America Online and Prodigy).

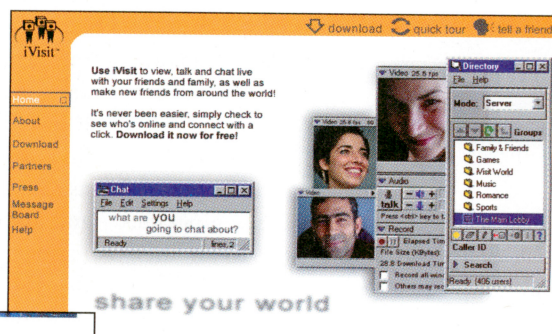
If you're serious about Internet telephony and you're willing to chip in a little money, ClearPhone



(www.clearphone.com) is a good choice. ClearPhone has received a lot of attention in the past year; it has been adopted by lots of users, both Mac and PC-based, despite its \$40 price tag. ClearPhone supports a high level of audio quality, although the video technology proved to be a bandwidth hog in our tests. But the casual user who simply wants to see the latest and greatest might stick to one of the cheaper alternatives.

Internet Phone (www.vocaltec.com) represents one of the few Mac-to-regular telephone pieces of software available today. Not only does the \$50 software

enable you to speak to friends on the Internet using the same program, but the Internet Phone service will place actual telephone calls for you, and you need nothing more than a computer and an Internet connection. Sounds great, right? Well, it can be, but be advised that the technology is still in its infancy, and minor hiccups and glitches are not unheard of, so don't plan to conduct crucial business meetings with the software. Additionally, other, cheaper programs provide better computer-to-computer audio quality, and, unless you plan on using the Internet Phone on a regular basis, stick to the old fashioned family phone for now.



Finally, if you're looking for an industry-wide standard in Internet telephony, CU-SeeMe (www.cuseeme.com) has been a force in the industry for a number of years now. While the \$70 program hasn't been updated since December of 1999, many users on the Internet (especially PC users) continue to use the software, as it was one of the first consumer-grade video conferencing programs available. CU-SeeMe is aging, however, and the hefty price tag may seem a little too steep for some home users.

Looking Forward

Internet telephony is just starting to get going; in the future, look for even more integration of video, better quality through the average modem connection, and even more people adopting the technology. Don't feel like you're trudging into uncharted territory; the ground has already been cleared by a number of different programs, and getting started will be easier than you think. So, head out, get a pair of headsets, download some software, and take the next step in communication — Internet telephony.



TextSpresso 1.7

If you have ever tried to clean-up email text sent from a PC or forwarded to you by a friend, you know just how cluttered text becomes with >> , %20, and even - - symbols appearing in every open space. Physically removing them is a tedious, time-consuming chore, which is why the shareware program, TextSpresso, is so valuable.

With TextSpresso you can easily apply numerous filters to email text to remove annoying characters that clutter up your page. It's a well designed, powerful and yet simple to use program.

It allows you to create custom filters to suit your individual needs. By simply selecting an entire email message, or any portion therein, and copying it to your clipboard, you can then open

TextSpresso and paste it into a new file for filtering. Begin by applying the Extract email addresses, or the Strip > And < filters to your text, and you'll have it looking clean and ready to paste into a document in an instant. You'll find a tremendous array of filters for everything from PC to Macs and PC to Web — if you want to drop text directly into your Website authoring program.

Imagine never having to go through fifty lines of text to remove those >> symbols! If there are a series of filters you typically find useful, you can create filter sets to use regularly. Better yet, you can drag and drop a series of email messages en-masse into a TextSpresso file and filter them all at once. This is also possible with the Batch Documents tool. Try simply using the New (Clipboard) function and watch as the material in your



clipboard is automatically included into a new document.

The Final Decision

TextSpresso is an invaluable tool for cleaning-up email messages as you incorporate them into word processing documents or Web pages. In seconds, the numerous filters allow you to remove any extraneous characters from emails

you want to use elsewhere. The variety of tools developed for gathering your text will leave you pleased that you discovered this shareware program.

— Ross Tibbits



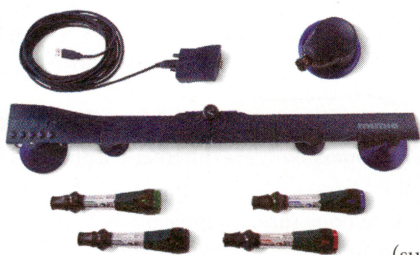
\$29, Taylor Design
www.taylor-design.com
760-949-5808

Mimio

Remember all the times you were in meetings or classrooms when you wish you'd taken better notes?

Have you ever hoped that you could just have a copy of what was written on the whiteboard instead of having to write it yourself? Now you can have that and more, with a product called Mimio.

The Mimio captures what is written on a whiteboard through a series of electronic sensors so that you can view, edit, and save files of individual whiteboard sessions on your Mac. As you write on the whiteboard, you'll see the exact same text and imagery appear in real-time on the screen of your Mac. On occasion,



portions of letters were not transcribed, but this has primarily to do with getting used to using the devices correctly.

All this magic is possible through a bar-like device that mounts onto the edge of your whiteboard with two large suction cups. By sensing the location of one of the four specially designed pen holders (red, green, blue, and black), it sends information through a 12 foot long USB cable

(supplied) to the software on your Mac. Simply load the pens and software, mount the bracket and you are ready to transcribe valuable notes with Mimio.

The Mimio software's main page mirrors the whiteboard exactly — you can even adjust for a variety of different sized boards. When you've filled the whiteboard with text, simply save it as a file to

your Mac and then erase the board and start another session. Individual files can be saved in HTML format also. You can compile these sessions on your hard drive and either use them personally, distribute them via email, or print directly from your monitor. There is also a neat copy and paste feature where you can select an area on the whiteboard from your monitor, copy it, and paste it into a Word document. Better yet, simply drag and drop the text!

The Final Decision For the classroom or the conference room, Mimio is a great communication tool. Its value will certainly outweigh its cost and the minor transcription quirks.

— Ross Tibbits



\$599, Virtual Ink Corp.
www.mimio.com
877-696-4640

Jam-P3

You are probably all too aware of the Napster court battles, in which MP3 tracks were the center of the nation's attention. But MP3 looks like it is here to stay, and we wanted to let you know about the new Jam-P3 player by KB Gear.

Encased in a cool looking, rugged case, this player looks ready for anything. Its five buttons on the front are just the right size to easily locate in a hurry. The largest of them is the Play/Pause/On button, and on either side of it are the Fast Forward and Rewind buttons. The smallest, less fre-

quently used buttons are for Tone and Mode.

Unlike some smaller players, this one sports a large LCD window that displays the track number, available memory, battery level, play mode, as well as indicating mode and tone settings.

The Jam-P3 comes standard with 16MB of internal memory. It also has a slot in its side for a MultimediaCard that can be purchased separately with upwards of 64MB of memory.

The player comes with the well known JamP3 software for downloading tracks from the Internet,

converting CD tracks to MP3, and for adding and deleting tracks from the player (via a USB cable). Once you get the hang of it, it's a breeze creating your own set lists.



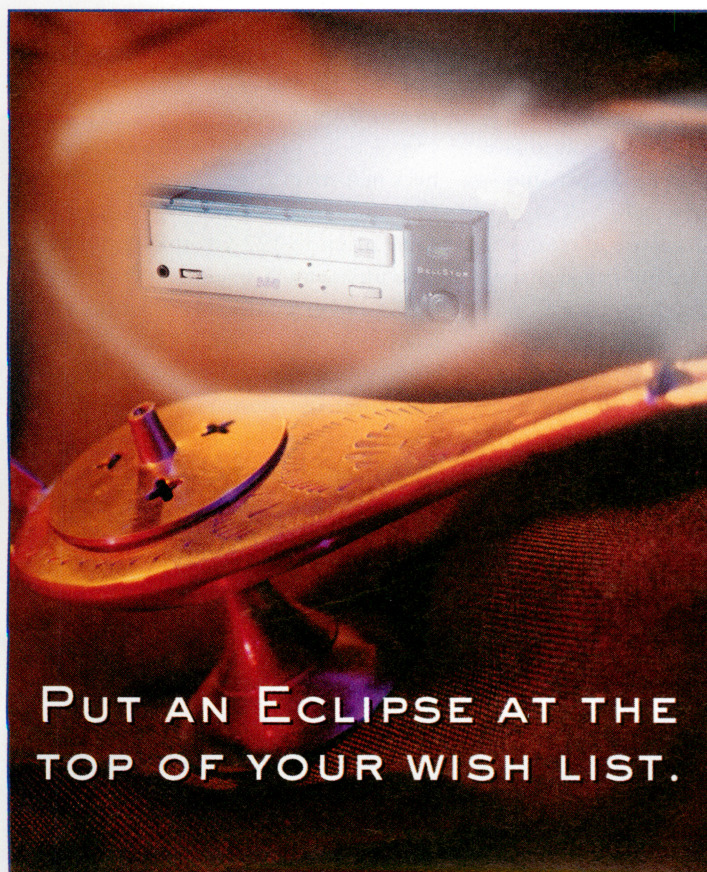
By changing the bitrate at which a song is played — either at the time you download, or when you load the tracks to the player, you can maximize the play-time of the unit. At 32kbps (AM radio quality) you'll get 67 minutes of play-time with the internal memory. But, the CD quality setting (128 kbps), gives you just 17 minutes. There are also incremental settings at 64 and 96 kbps.

The Final Decision The Jam-P3 is a simple yet easy to use and functional unit that will have you jamming wherever you are for not a whole lot of cash. You'll only have to pay — rather dearly — for more memory.

— Ross Tibbitts



\$100, KB Gear Interactive
www.kbgear.com
800-926-3066
PowerPC Required



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BUZ ZOLLER
Mac Addict, July 2000

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Mixman StudioPro 4.0

We all want to be the deejay: master of the beats, rhythm champion, and party starter. Mixman StudioPro gives you the tools to create great mixes from start to finish, in many styles like jazz or techno. And it's a simple package that lets anyone compose songs, even without a musical background.

Technically speaking, you'll be dealing with mixes or creating songs by combining several-second samples of sounds. So look elsewhere if you want to plunk out a piano line while your virtual violins play backup. That having been said, mixing (or remixing if you're re-creating another song) is an easy way to compose music. Mixman StudioPro lets

you record, add special effects, mix or remix in real time, and edit your song. You won't need any additional software until you turn your hobby into a career.

Use the Recording Studio to import any noise through your Mac's microphone. Mixman StudioPro also includes hundreds of great sounds — like guitar riffs, huge beats, and cymbal.

Take your samples to the turntables in the Remixing Studio, where work and fun collide in a performance-oriented area.



Push a key to play each sound, accessing up to sixteen tracks at a time. You'll keep up with the rhythm because Mixman StudioPro matches the beat automatically. While you mix, you can alter the tempo, add special effects, and change other parameters in real time. These fea-

tures are all that we want to create great mixes; nothing is omitted.

The Editing Studio is the biggest addition to this version of Mixman StudioPro. Now, you can edit your remix with pen and eraser tools. Easily remove accidental sounds and add anything that was too difficult to coordinate in real-time.

Our only complaint: with a limited number of sounds, we used the same samples in different mixes. To combat this, add your own sounds or use beatnik's modular CD expansions.

The Final Decision Mixman StudioPro is everything that you could want from mixing software. Creating music is easy and entertaining because everything is presented in a straightforward manner.

— Zack Stern



\$90, Beatnik, Inc.
www.mixman.com
877-295-6592

Virtual PC 4.0

Since its debut, Virtual PC has been the best and fastest way to run Windows on your Mac. Version 4 of this already excellent program adds several new features and makes it possible to run a multitude of operating systems on your Mac simultaneously.

It's hard to believe that Connectix could improve its Windows emulation program. Yet it has, cleaning up the interface and adding a number of useful features. The new VPC interface has smaller icons on the bottom of the VPC window, allowing you to see the status of your network connection, shared folders, USB connections, and CD-ROM and hard

drive activity. The application window can be resized, making it easier to get VPC out of the way when you need to use other applications.

Historically, VPC allowed you to save several separate operating systems and then run them individually. VPC 4

allows you to create, save, and run as many different virtual PCs as your RAM can handle. When you open the program, each of your available configurations appears in a window called the Virtual PC List. Use this list to manage the settings for each of your configurations and start each PC

with a click. Connectix also

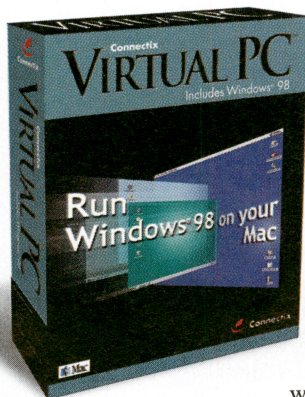
supports booting any of your Virtual PCs from a CD-ROM drive, making it easy to install or add different PC operating systems.

There is a noticeable improvement

in the speed with which the program actually runs the Windows operating system on a Mac. Disk and folder windows open more quickly and saved connections to network drives reconnect in a snap. A new Expanding Hard Drive option lets you create a hard drive of up to 127 GB that will only take up as much space as it currently needs and expand if you need more space.

The Final Decision Virtual PC 4.0 is an excellent new version of an already stellar program. Anyone already using VPC should upgrade, and those reticent to run Windows on the Mac need fear no more.

— Jeff Battersby



\$199, Connectix
www.connectix.com
650-571-5100
PowerPC Required

CameraMate

Digital cameras have made a dramatic impact on the way the world captures, views, and exchanges images. Unlike traditional film-based pictures, digital images are recorded onto a variety of mediums, such as memory cards or even CD-RWs. For those of you with more than one digital camera in the family, managing the different storage devices could be a daunting task — until now. Microtech has introduced the CameraMate, a digital film reader that accepts two formats of memory cards.

The need for a device that reads these formats, which include CompactFlash, IBM Microdrives, CF II, and SmartMedia cards, may seem minimal under most circumstances. But, when you need this kind of flexibility, the CameraMate is a device to consider.

The CameraMate is a compact rectan-

gular device that takes up minimal desktop space. Because it comes with a three-foot long USB cable, you can move it to different locations at will. And once you set it down, the beefy rubber feet will keep it from sliding around.

Once you've installed the CameraMate's drivers and Adobe Acrobat (included), restart your computer and plug the reader into your Mac. A purple light will shine on the surface of the reader letting you know it is connected properly.

When you install a card into the reader, a nifty icon appears on your desktop, and acts just like a hard drive. Double-click on the icon and you'll see the images you just took with your camera. You can drag them to your

Mac's hard drive to save, and thus empty the media card. It's a great setup.

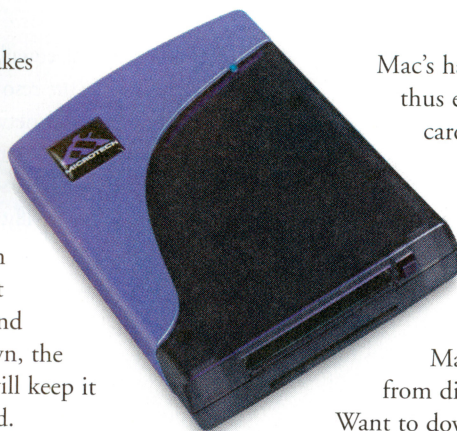
The Final Decision

Annoyed by always attaching a different camera to your

Mac to transfer files from dissimilar media cards?

Want to download images without installing software? Then get a CameraMate card reader to simplify your life. You'll no longer spend time attaching cables — just downloading images. The question is, is it worth \$89?

— Ross Tibbitts



\$89, Microtech
800-666-9689
www.microtechint.com
PowerPC Required

Netscape 6.0

There was a time when Netscape was the best choice for Web browsing on the Mac.

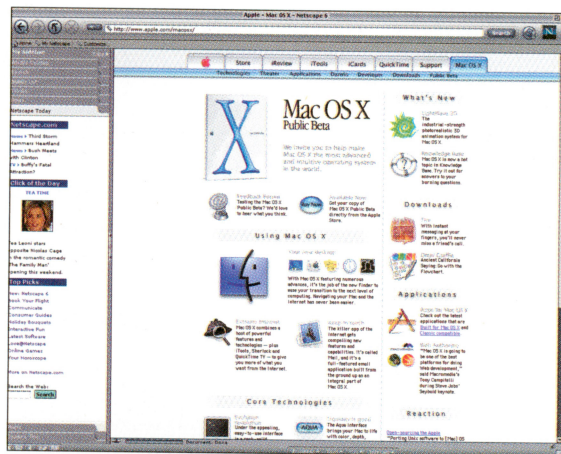
Competition has been fierce, and Netscape's market share has fallen precipitously in recent years. Now, after much anticipation, Netscape 6 is available. Unfortunately, it doesn't quite perform as we'd anticipated.

Before installing Netscape 6, you'll need 24 MB of free hard drive space — quite a bit by comparison to some other browsers that require only 7 MB. But remember that Netscape 6 comes with its own email application, which adds significantly to its size. Likewise you'll see a similar increase in RAM allocation.

Opening Netscape 6 took almost ten seconds on a 500MHz G3, a process I'd hoped would be quicker. Once it's opened, you'll see a host of changes and improvements. These updates include a completely refreshed look that can be personalized by downloading new "themes" from Netscape. New

themes will be added periodically to the Netscape site for free download. I downloaded a nicely designed one that was flawed — missing a key pull-down menu. My Sidebar, a customizable toolbar on the left side of the page, opens up to reveal tabs for News, Search, and Music services and a Buddy List for the AOL Instant Messenger. You can minimize the sidebar if you prefer more window space — a nice touch.

Gecko, Netscape's new open source engine, supports a wide variety of Web standards, including HTML 4.0, XML, CSS, DOM, and JavaScript. Therefore, you'll rarely have to worry about your browser being unable to read pages that suggest they are best viewed with another browser. I found Gecko to render pages more slowly than other browsers, and it occasionally crashed.



The Final Decision Netscape 6's new interface is clean and tremendously customizable. Unfortunately, it is slow to render pages and tends to crash. You might want to wait for the next iteration, or simply stick with 4.7.

— Ross Tibbitts



Free, Netscape
Communications Corporation
www.netscape.com

Norton Internet Security for Macintosh

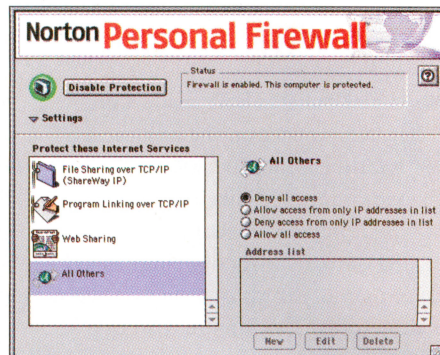
There hasn't been much talk about viruses and computer break-ins recently, but it wasn't long ago that the world was on high alert for fraudulent activity over the Internet. Out of sight perhaps, but not out of mind. Now, as consumers becoming more aware of Internet technology, securing your Mac from intrepid vandals becomes more important. You can do this with Norton Internet Security.

Norton Internet Security includes Norton AntiVirus 6.0, Norton Personal Firewall, and iClean, from Aladdin Systems. You probably already know about AntiVirus. Version 7.0 of this software scans hard drives, CDs, and even email for viruses. Having a virus-free computer is an excellent way to begin protecting its system from damage.

Protecting from future threats with the

aid of a firewall is equally important. Firewalls secure the resources in your computer and your network from users of other computers or networks who seek to obtain your personal data off your hard drive illegally. Personal Firewall is easy to use and personalize so that only computers with specific addresses are allowed access to your data. Typically, this is done when you are using File Sharing within an office environment. If you don't need to share files, simply set the program not to allow any data-sharing. Personal Firewall tracks all attempted intrusions and provides details about all computers accessing your property.

Internet security isn't complete unless it prevents anyone from discovering where you've been surfing on the Web. iClean is a nifty little program designed to clear your Internet tracks. It protects your online privacy by saving precious disk space and removing Internet cookies, browser cache files, and Internet history files that allow prying eyes to see where you've surfed on the Web.



The Final Decision Norton Internet Security bundles three powerful, well-designed programs that are easy to use and certain to stop anyone you don't know from accessing your data.

— Ross Tibbit



\$100, Symantec corporation
800-441-7234
PowerPC Required
www.symantec.com

Eye Candy 4000

A humdrum logo or dull photograph can sometimes leave even expert designers challenged for inspiration. Hence the popularity of third-party filters, which operate as plug-ins to Photoshop and other graphics programs. Plug-in filters are the most popular way to dance up a boring logo, put a special effect on a photo, or create interesting rollover effects for Website navigational buttons.

One popular entry on that list is Alien Skin's Eye Candy, which has come out with an upgrade called Eye Candy 4000, giving you 23 different

filters. This Photoshop plug-in also works with Macromedia Fireworks, Adobe ImageReady, and Deneba Canvas.

The new version gives you a suite of brand new filters, including Marble, Wood, Drip, Melt, and Corona. It includes new features such as a bevel profile and color gradient editors, as well as seamless tiling. This upgrade also consolidates some effects from the older version to streamline the selection process.

Eye Candy

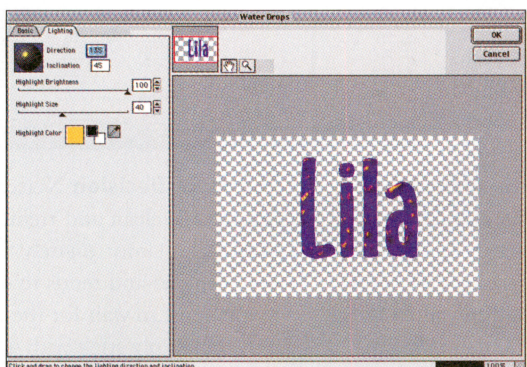
4000 is as simple to use as the previous version, and comes at a very reasonable price. As you launch the filter within Photoshop, the Eye Candy menu replaces the Mac's menu bar on the screen. All controls operate from within

a straightforward slider bar interface and tabs. You can easily test out any amount of a particular effect and preview the results before applying it to your image. There are unlimited undos and redos if you happen to change your mind many, many times.

Eye Candy 4000 comes with a detailed instruction book, which helps you make the most of the program's many capabilities and helps new users decide which filters are right for their images.

The Final Decision Eye Candy is a blast to use, and the faster your machine, the faster the image processing. It gives you literally an infinite number of special effects for every imaginable image.

— Jackie Dove



\$169, Alien Skin Software
888-921-7546
www.alienskin.com

Microsoft Excel 2001

A Look at the Latest in Spreadsheet Applications

By Ross Tibbits

For many of you, spreadsheets are about as interesting as doing your taxes, whereas for others, they are both a necessary and creative experience. Although Microsoft hasn't changed much of Excel in Office 2001, **Microsoft has made certain that it's easier to use and more intuitive than before.**

On top of this, Microsoft has added a few features that you are sure to appreciate. The first thing you'll notice is Excel's new look, consistent with similar changes made in Word, Entourage, and PowerPoint. The toolbars — which are customizable — sit neatly in the upper left hand corner of your screen and are complimented by the new Formatting Palette.

The Formatting Palette quickly lets you select fonts, change spacing and alignment, create borders and shading, and customize document settings at will. This function is a great improvement over the previous version, where you had to search endlessly under various toolbars for these functions.

I found Excel 2001 to be intuitive and easy to use when working with spreadsheets. Excel remembers the numbers and words you've entered in previously and as you type in new data, an AutoComplete window appears near your entry, allowing you to quickly select a piece of data without having to re-enter it.

Drop down menus and auto fill features are also present when you are try-

ing to sort lists within

your spreadsheets.

Remember when you first tried to do this with previous versions of Excel? It was more a matter of trying to read the manual than using your intuition. Fortunately, it is a matter of intuition in 2001. By selecting all the data within your file and applying the List Wizard to it, you can easily implement a series of powerful tools with which to sort your data. Once you've gone through the three easy steps in the Wizard, Excel creates a series of drop-down menus at the top of each column. Within each menu you'll have the option of sorting your data in ascending or descending order, you can Show All, Show Top 10, or create a Custom Filter. Excel automatically interprets the data and allows you to sort by the name of a particular entry.

One of the most important Mac-centric tools that Microsoft has incorporated into

Excel is the ability to import data from FileMaker Pro. With the help of the FileMaker Pro Import Wizard, you can easily work in Excel with your most important data. Once you have selected the information to import, you can manipulate it just as though it were a regular Excel file, sorting and analyzing at will.



The Final Decision If you have worked with past versions of Excel, you will be very pleased with the changes present in Excel 2001. Although not revolutionary in nature, they will certainly make working with this powerful program easier and more intuitive than ever before. 



Microsoft Excel 2001
\$399, Microsoft Corporation
www.microsoft.com
800-426-9400

Create Playlists with iTunes

One of iTunes's greatest strengths is its ability to organize and sort your MP3 audio collection. It's unlikely you'll want to listen to your entire library of music in one sitting, however. You may only want to hear the latest chart toppers, for example, or perhaps you'd like to make a long mix for a party. You might even want to create a list of love songs for a special evening. iTunes is sensitive to these needs, allowing you to create multiple playlists to suit your mood.



Once you've organized your music collection, select New Playlist from the File menu. An untitled playlist will appear in the Source listing to the left of your music listings. Click once on the entry, and give it an appropriate name (for example, "Top Hits 4/11/2001"). Now click once on the Library entry at the top of the Source listing. Browse through your audio collection until you find a song you want to add to your new playlist. Click on the song, hold down the mouse button, and then simply drag it to your new playlist at the left. Add as many songs as you wish. When you're finished, click on the playlist to view the tracks you've added. You can rearrange the songs by dragging and dropping them in any order. To delete an item, click once to select it, and press delete on your keyboard.

You can create as many playlists as you like. You can listen to your lists sequentially, or, if you prefer, you can select Shuffle from the Control menu to play the tracks randomly. You can also click the minimize square in the top right of the window to reduce the iTunes interface to a small, unobtrusive MP3 controller.

Creating Website Hot Keys

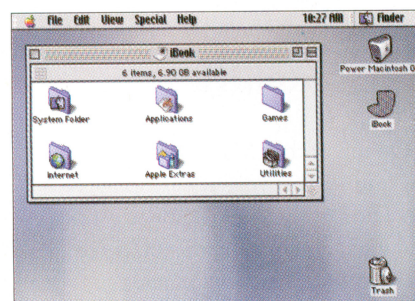
Chances are that you use your Macintosh for browsing the Internet more than any other task. Wouldn't it be great if you could visit a Website with a simple keystroke, no matter what application you are using? Owners of Macs with built-in USB can do just that by combining Mac OS 9's Internet clippings with keyboard Hot Keys. The first task is to create a folder on your desktop called "Destinations" (or something similar). Next, you'll need to launch Internet Explorer 5, and visit one of your favorite sites. Click once in the address field, and press command-A to select all. Now, drag the address from the Internet Explorer window and into the folder you just created on the desktop. You've now saved an Internet clipping file — double-click it at any time, and it will bring you directly to that Website. Continue to visit your favorite sites, collecting up to twelve Internet clippings.

Once you're done, open the Keyboard control panel. At the base of the window, you'll see a button called Function Keys. A new window will open, allowing you to assign a function to each F Key. Return to the desktop and open the folder where you stored the Internet clippings. Choose List from the View menu to tidy things up. Drag the window to the right of the display, so it is not overlapping the Keyboard control panel. Now, drag and drop each clipping into the text boxes adjacent to the Function Key numbers. (Don't worry if you cannot remember exactly which key triggers which site just yet. You'll learn with time.) Once you've assigned a site to each key, move down to the box called "Function Key Settings." You must be sure this option remains unchecked. Otherwise, you will have to hold down the option key to trigger the Hot Keys. Click OK, and you're ready to roll!

FireWire Disk Mode

Own two or more FireWire-equipped Macintoshes? You can connect any Mac with built-in FireWire to any other Mac with built-in FireWire and have the hard drive of the first computer appear as an external hard drive on the second. This can be a very handy feature if you want to transfer large files between the two computers.

The first task is to run to your local computer supplies store and purchase a 6-pin to 6-pin FireWire cable (\$20-\$30). Once you return, make sure that both Macs have FireWire 2.3.3 or better installed. Those of you with earlier versions can download the latest FireWire update at www.apple.com/firewire/.

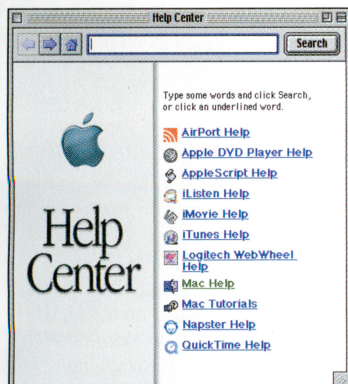


After you're up to date, shut down the Macintosh you want to use as an external hard drive, but leave the second Macintosh running. (iBooks and PowerBooks should be plugged into a power source since FireWire activity drains the battery.) Now connect the FireWire cable from one Mac to the other. Press the power button to restart the first Macintosh, and immediately hold down the T key on its keyboard. The Mac soon displays a FireWire disk mode icon on its display, and its hard drive icon appears on the second Mac.

Once you're finished copying files or troubleshooting, simply drag the hard drive icon of the first Mac into the Trash to unmount it. Now return to the first Mac, and press the power button to shut it down. You can disconnect the cable, and start up normally once again.

Finding Help

It's happened to the best of us. We're sailing along smoothly with our Macintoshes when suddenly something bewildering happens. Where do you turn for explanation or help? So long as your Macintosh is still fully operational, consult the Mac OS Help Center. Go to the Finder and select Help Center from the Help menu. You're immediately presented with a listing of topics and a handy search field.



Let's say you want to find out how you can prevent your Macintosh from crashing. Go to the Help Center, and click on the Mac Help listing. Now, in the search field at the top, enter the word "crash," and press return. The first article listed is "If your computer crashes, freezes, or won't start up." You need

only click on this entry to learn more about system crashes and possible solutions. Still confused? Many topics offer a quick-link to Apple's Tech Info Library on the Web. Search results will appear in Sherlock, and if you see an article you think might explain your problem, you can double-click it to view the article instantly in your Web browser.

Invisible Megabyte Gobbler

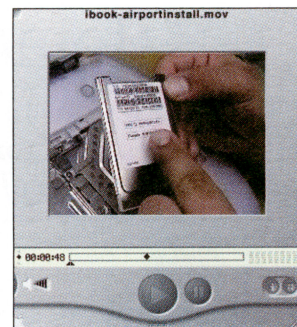
Have you noticed your available hard drive space decreasing at an alarming rate? You're not alone. Mac OS 9 has a rather annoying but harmless bug that gobbles up hard drive space. The Mac OS employs an invisible folder to store temporary items. This folder can be used by any application that requires a scratch disk to store work in progress. Adobe Photoshop, for example, saves image data it is currently using to the temporary items folder. After the application is closed, the temporary files are automatically deleted.

Unfortunately, problems arise when the computer crashes. Open applications don't get an opportunity to close properly, and so any temporary files in use by the application remain in the temporary items folder. Mac OS 8.6 automatically routes these files to the Trash upon restart. Mac OS 9, however, does not. Instead, these temporary files sit idly within the temporary items folder, never to be used again. After a number of crashes, the folder begins to balloon in size, taking up valuable hard drive space.

Apple promises a fix for this problem with Mac OS 9.1. Until then, it has provided an AppleScript utility to delete temporary items automatically at startup. You can download this script at [ftp://ftp.info.apple.com/Apple_Support_Area/Apple_Software_Updates/US/Macintosh/Misc/AppleScript/](http://ftp.info.apple.com/Apple_Support_Area/Apple_Software_Updates/US/Macintosh/Misc/AppleScript/). Once the file has arrived and expanded, drag it into the Startup Items Folder within the System Folder. Now, each time your Macintosh starts up, the AppleScript automatically searches for temporary items and tosses them in the Trash. You'll need to empty the trash to vacate the hard drive space. The first time the script runs and you empty the Trash, you might be amazed at the amount of hard drive space you reclaim.

iBook Visual Aids

Installing memory or an AirPort card into an iBook can be a daunting task for a novice user. Although the manual is reassuring, many people simply aren't comfortable cracking open their laptops. To help users become familiar with the process, Apple has posted a number of iBook instructional videos at www.info.apple.com/support/ibook/movies.html. Topics include battery removal, installation of memory, installation of an AirPort card, and a primer on the iBook's various ports. The QuickTime movies range from 1.3 to 5.5MB in size, and each can be downloaded within 15 minutes via a standard 56k modem connection.



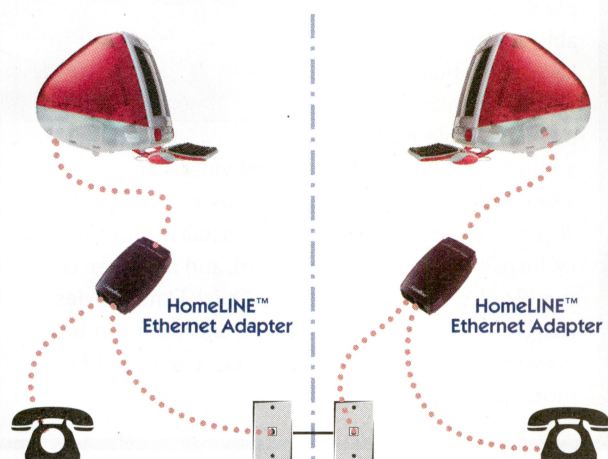
Emergency Power Off

All new Macintoshes can be turned off by pressing the power button for five seconds. Under normal circumstances, you should still select Shut Down from the Special menu to shut off the computer properly. However, if you've had a crash and you simply want to turn the computer off, the five-second press comes in very handy. Otherwise, you'll have to wait for the Macintosh to reboot and proceed with its disk check before you can shut it down. This can be a real pain if you're running off to a meeting or simply ready to head to bed.

You can perform the five-second shutdown anytime you like. However, it will most likely cause Disk First Aid to examine your hard drive the next time you start up. Don't be alarmed by this -- although it's not the proper way to shut off your system, it does not do any damage. Let Disk First Aid go about its work.

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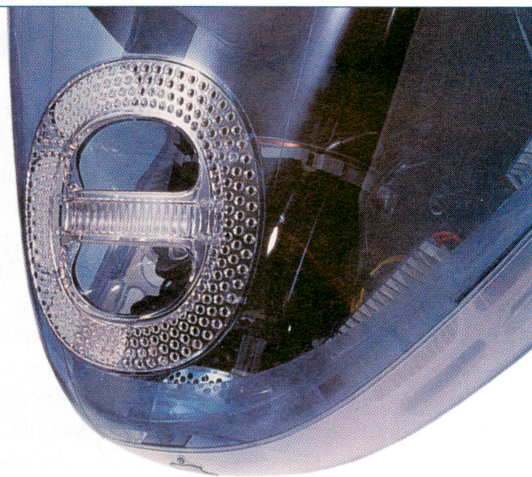
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Mac OS Update Watch

By Chris McVeigh

Mac OS 9.1 Update

Apple's long awaited update to Mac OS 9 has finally arrived. The software improves the stability of the Mac OS and rolls in expanded support for iTools and multiple users. Sherlock 2 now features an entertainment channel, and the Finder has gained a new Windows menu to ease navigation through crowded desktops. The update requires Mac OS 9 and can be found at www.info.apple.com/support/macos9/9.1download.html (70MB or 15 segments of 4.6MB). The update is also available on CD for \$19.95; visit www.apple.com/macos/ for more information.

Power Macintosh G4 AGP Update

This update eliminates several issues affecting recent Power Macintosh G4 systems with Gigabit Ethernet, circumventing wake-from-sleep problems and enhancing the reliability of the Rage 128 Pro graphics card. Wondering if your system is affected? The problem strikes 400MHz single processor and 450MHz and 500MHz dual processor Power Macintosh G4 systems. These systems were the first G4s to ship with Apple's Pro Mouse. You can download the update at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11903>.

DVD-ROM Firmware 1.0

This update improves the performance of audio extraction from the DVD-ROM drives of Power Macin-

tosh G4 Cube, iMac DV+ and iMac DV SE systems. If you regularly use Apple's iTunes to rip audio tracks from your favorite CDs, install this update. You can download it from <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11914>.

Disk First Aid 8.6

Apple's latest revision of Disk First Aid includes the capacity to fix an obscure bug found on the hard drives of many Macintosh systems shipping with Mac OS 9.0.4. Download, install and run Disk First Aid 8.6 to clear up the issue before it becomes a problem. Find the software at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11889>.

Apple Modem Updater 2.0

This software updates the modem firmware in iMacs, iBooks, Power Macintoshes (blue G3s and all G4s), and PowerBook G3 series. Apple warns that while the reported connection rate may be somewhat lower than before the installation, actual modem throughput is at least as good or better. You can find the update at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11859>.

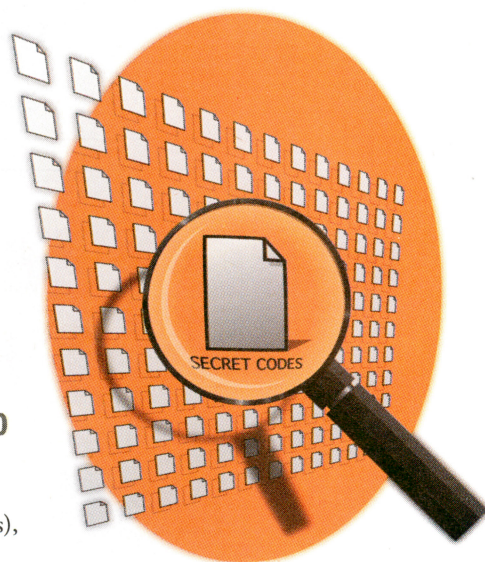
PowerBook Firmware Update 2.7

This update includes improved support for FireWire. The software requires a PowerBook with built-in FireWire ports running Mac OS 9.

You can download the update from <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11849>.

FireWire 2.5

This revision to Apple's FireWire software addresses several issues found with version 2.4. The software now supports more than ten simultaneous connected devices, and a bug has been fixed that caused some devices to work improperly after the computer had been shut down. People using FireWire devices with their Macintoshes should install this update. The software requires Mac OS 9; you can download it at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11838>.



iMovie 2.0.1

Apple has already released a software update for the recently announced iMovie 2. The update improves stability, enhances performances and rolls in support for the iMovie Plug-in Pack 2. The update is intended for the version of iMovie 2 that shipped with the most recently announced iMacs (it will not update iMovie 1.0). Find the software at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11789>. 

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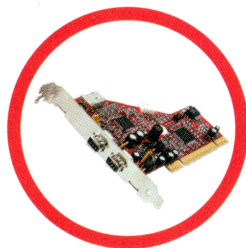
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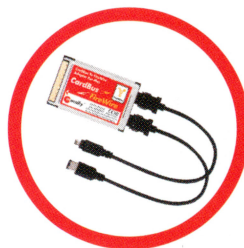


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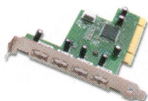
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